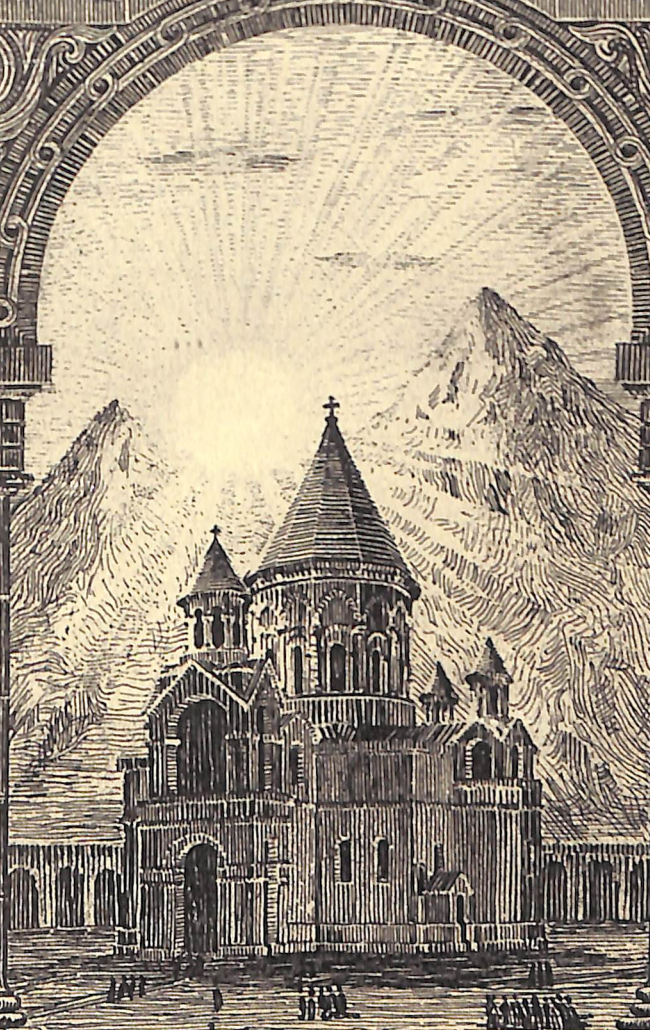


# ARARAT

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA  
LONDON PRICE 6d



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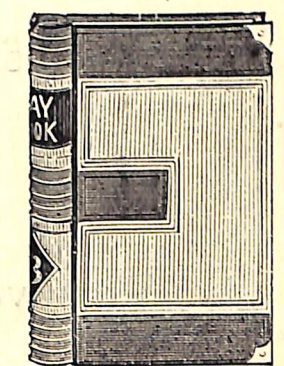
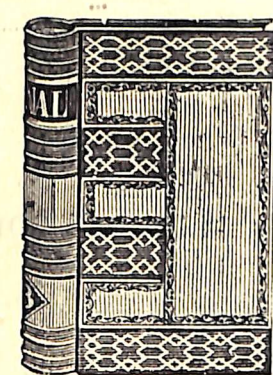
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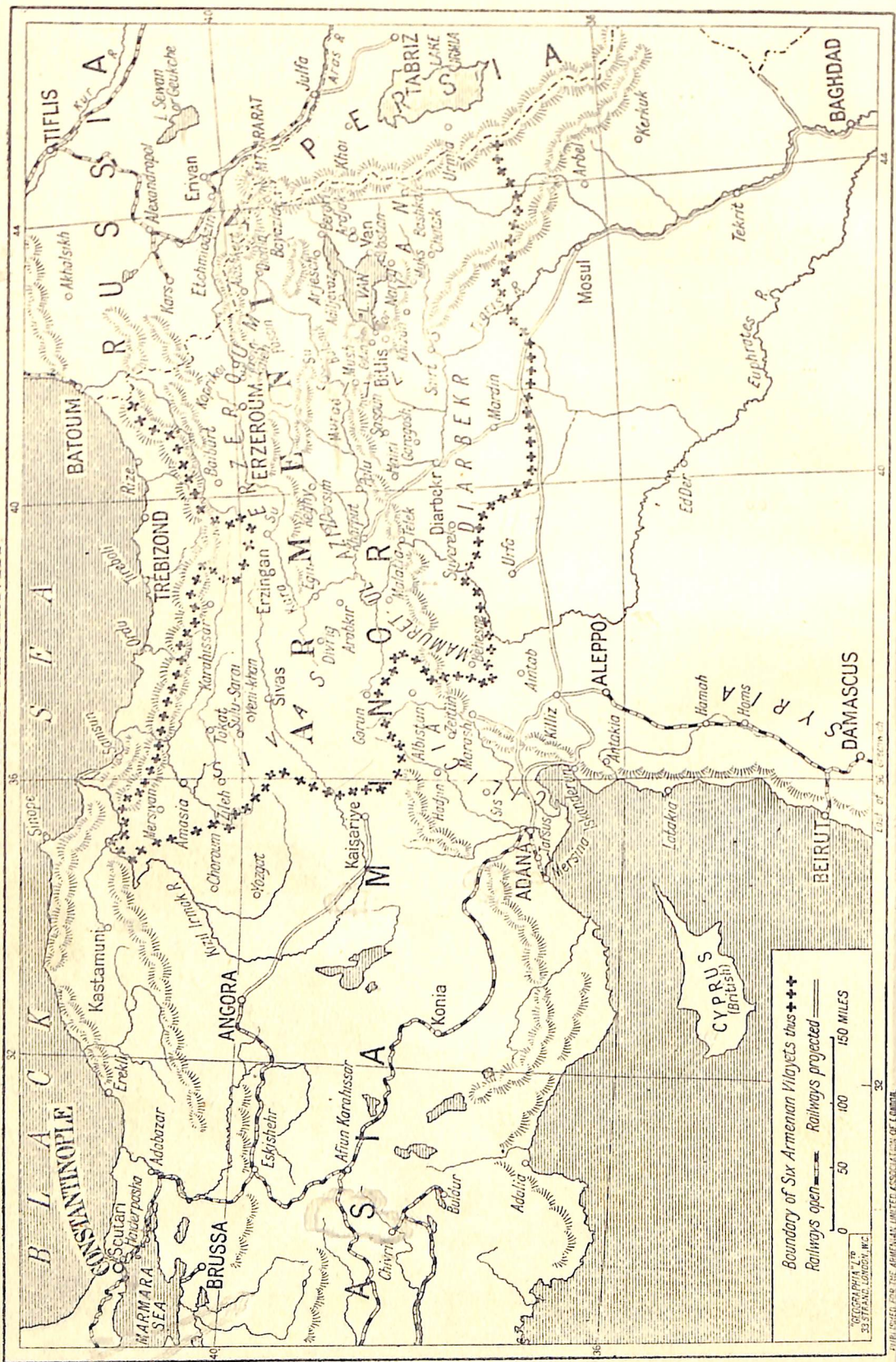
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All communications affecting this periodical should be  
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## Current Notes

The coming of spring is heralded by the Germans with an onslaught in the West near Verdun which is perhaps, in vehemence, in iron efficiency, in systematised preparation, one of the greatest of offensives that have been undertaken in this war. It would seem to be one of the final hazards on which the Great War Lord is staking his all, callous of the appalling wastage of the flower of his army. The fall of such a fortress as Verdun would be a prize of incalculable value for the inspiring of his disappointed army, and no less of his dejected people in beleaguered Germany. But how do our Allies, the French, look upon this venture of the enemy? The development has been expected for some time, and the preparations made to counter the German stroke have been amply provided. Though considerable ground has been lost, for which the Germans have paid a heavy price, the French Headquarters Staff look with confidence on the final outcome of this struggle. The Kaiser's presence may stimulate his troops to the utmost exertions, even the fall of Verdun may come about, which we doubt; but France looks on calmly, conscious that the enemy is playing the Allies' game, and that when the grand offensive comes from the Franco-British forces, these isolated and bloody encounters will fall into their proper perspective without the surrender to the Germans of any vantage of prime importance. The struggle, which is in progress while we write, is probably the forerunner of this great clash between the two forces, and we await with keen anxiety and full confidence its development and its results.

The great outstanding item of interest at the moment, and one concerning Armenia, is the fall of Erzeroum, which has given heart to all surviving Armenians, and presages the veritable dawn of a new era for them. To those who would care to go more deeply into the subject of the importance of this fortress, its forbidding aspect to an attacking force, its value from a strategic and an economic point of view as the key to Asia Minor, we would commend the very lucid description contained in that incomparable work *Armenia*, by the late Mr. H. F. B. Lynch. The task of reducing this fortress, which had been specially prepared by Germans and Turks to withstand the onslaughts of an attacking army, would have been no easy one in normal times. But it was one of stupendous magnitude, carrying with it the hazards of almost certain failure, if attempted in mid-winter with a temperature far below freezing point and the mountain passes deep in snow. And yet it was under these conditions that the fortress considered impregnable under its modern preparations for resistance, was stormed and captured at the point of the bayonet from its least vulnerable side and in the shortest space of time—a truly marvellous



and almost incredible exploit. The Grand Duke Nicholas, Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief of the Caucasus, thus announces to the Czar the feat performed by his army :—

“God has granted the brave troops of the Army of the Caucasus such great help that Erzeroum has been taken after five days of unprecedented assault.”

The Grand Duke had given proof in the Eastern front that he was an adept at delivering hammer blows, and he had not been long in his new command before he matured his plans for the blow he has just struck—well-timed in every respect. Its effects are far-reaching. By the sweeping movement of their left flank reaching to the south of Lake Van, the Russians have taken by assault Mush and Akhlat ; their next important objective seems to be Trebizond, on the Black Sea coast, as they are just reported to have taken the town of Ispir, half way between that place and Erzeroum. The pursuit of the Turks is being carried on vigorously in all directions, and the paralysis of the Turkish army in Asia Minor seems to be complete, for the distance of railhead from the front in occupation of the Russians makes the problem of despatching reinforcements practically impossible. The use of the Baghdad railway for the transport of troops to Mesopotamia will be checked altogether, and their existing forces in that region will find themselves in a precarious position. The much-advertised advance on Egypt and the Suez Canal, if it were ever seriously entertained, must now be abandoned ; while the activity of the Turkish forces against the Allies at Salonica must be restricted to the battalions on the north side of the Bosphorus. In a word, the uses of the Turkish army have been discounted altogether in this war by the fall of Erzeroum. That Armenians all over the world have given themselves over to sober rejoicing must be expected. It is a just retribution for the fiendish massacres to which the nation has been subjected ; and it means the death knell to any further serious participation of the Turkish forces in the war. The true meaning of their rejoicing, however, rests on the certain knowledge that their persecutors have at last been cornered, and that never again shall Armenians suffer under the Turkish yoke.

The sober rejoicings in London found vent in the despatch of two telegrams. One to the Russian Ambassador ran thus :—

“On the occasion of the fall of Erzeroum, the Armenian community of England tenders to your Excellency their heartiest congratulations on this splendid achievement, and prays that this expression of their humble gratitude and hearty rejoicings be laid before his Imperial Majesty the Czar.”

The other was sent to His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Nicholas at Tiflis, and was in the following terms :—

“On auspicious occasion of the capture of Erzeroum, the Armenian community of Great Britain begs to tender to your Imperial Highness and the gallant troops under your command the expression of their deep gratitude and hearty congratulations.”

The following gracious replies are recorded here for the information of our readers. That from the Russian Ambassador reads :—

“Sincere thanks for congratulations on the victory of our troops. Your kind message will be conveyed to His Majesty.”

The one from the Grand Duke Nicholas runs thus :—

“I send you and the Armenian community of Great Britain my best thanks for the congratulations tendered to me and the valiant Caucasus army under my command.”

Before leaving the subject of Erzeroum, we give our readers an extract, communicated to the Italian *Agenzie Libera*, which has a touch of irony about it :—

“Great alarm prevails at Berlin concerning the fate of many Germans who were at Erzeroum, including a number of officers, engineers, and merchants. It is feared that they have been either captured by the Russians or *massacred by the Armenians*.”

The italics are ours. There is no doubt that a certain number of Armenians were left in Erzeroum, as they have been in other cities of Turkish Armenia—men who were useful to the Turco-Teutonic forces as artisans and in their labour battalions ; and we have also the sad new that many of these were massacred by the Turks before the Russians entered the city. But for the past masters in massacre, who have practically eliminated the Armenian element from their native soil, to fear a reprisal of a similar nature on themselves from an attenuated remnant of their previous victims, has a flavour of the grotesque about it. No, Armenians have never practised massacre ; their able-bodied have flocked to the colours to fight their enemies on the square. We are inclined to think these German intruders were not the victims of reprisals, but found safety in following in the footsteps of their chief, von der Goltz, and retiring gracefully to Constantinople when they found that the game was up.

We print below two telegrams received by Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Lord Mayor's Armenian Fund, from Mr. Samson Ahrounlian, President of the



Armenian Central War Victims Relief Committee of Tiflis, through which a considerable proportion of funds are being utilised for relief purposes :—

“Tiflis, January 31st.—Armenian Central War Victims Relief Committee heartily thanks you and fund for 80,750 roubles cabled. Fresh outbreak of typhus and other diseases all over refugee camps necessitate larger outlay of funds for stamping out pestilence among 223,000 odd helpless Armenian and Nestorian refugees. Notwithstanding our Government and Armenian support, warm clothing and bedding have not been distributed hitherto, and exhausted sick refugees sleep on ground in insufficiently sheltered quarters. Famine prices coupled with unhealthy conditions keep up a high rate of mortality.”

“Tiflis, February 16th.—Our gratitude for sixty-four thousand roubles just received. Your timely support enables us to deal with still very serious situation of Armenian refugees to some extent. Every effort being made to relieve distress. Except orphans already accommodated some thousand stragglers between Van and Persia await accommodation and care. Please express our heartfelt thanks to your Committee and generous British donors for their sympathy towards our suffering compatriots.”

The Armenian Relief Funds continue to progress. The Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, which had reached £27,000 when we last wrote, is now somewhere about £40,000, and includes the sale proceeds of the £8,300 worth of Consols to which we referred last month as coming from “an anonymous friend.” Our own, the Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund, has passed the figure of £16,000; while the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund has collected over £5,500. The three Funds thus represent a total collection of over £61,000 against £46,000 recorded last month. Apart from the large sums remitted to the Caucasus by the Lord Mayor's Fund, we are glad to see that steps have been taken to meet the medical needs of the refugees, which are very urgent, as the telegrams we have just quoted show. Drugs of the value of £500 are now being got ready to be despatched as a first instalment, and a qualified doctor has been engaged for duty in the refugee camps. The doctor selected is an Armenian, Khatchadour Eyerdjian, holding diplomas from the Faculty of Medicine of Zurich, and he recently left London to report himself at Tiflis. Dr. Eyerdjian is a native of Van, and as his patients would be almost entirely Armenians, the choice is of undoubted advantage to the latter, with whom the doctor would be able to converse freely.

It is with deep sorrow that we have to record the death, at the ripe age of 79, of Count Vorontzoff-Dashkoff, who relinquished his

office of Viceroy of the Caucasus but a few months ago, to be succeeded by H.I.H. the Grand Duke Nicholas. He was a great Russian and a great administrator, and the office of Viceroy of the Caucasus, which he was the first to hold, was specially created at a critical period of revolutionary activity, and his just and wise administration lasted from 1905 to 1915. In an article, which appeared in *Ararat* of November, 1913, we reviewed a remarkable and outspoken document emanating from him as to conditions in the Caucasus both before and after his advent, and we wound up this article with the following words :—

This interesting and exhaustive report of Count Vorontzoff-Dashkoff is worthy to take rank as one of the most instructive and progressive documents that have ever seen the light from the Russian official archives. Under his conciliatory and paternal rule the Caucasus has been transformed into a peaceful region, and the considerable number of Armenians inhabiting it are enabled to enjoy the same liberty as is assigned to Russians, provided, of course, that political propaganda is eschewed by both the one and the other. It is our fervent hope that the Count will long be permitted to retain his office of Viceroy, and that, in the fullness of time, his mantle will fall on an equally worthy successor.

In recording the death of Count Illarion Ivanovitch Vorontzoff-Dashkoff, we cannot do better than quote here the obituary notice which appeared in *The Times* of February 2nd :—

The heir to an immense fortune, he entered the Army as a youth, and rose by military merit to the colonelcy of the Imperial Hussar Regiment at the age of 26. Upon the accession of Alexander III, whose friendship he had won, he became Minister of the Imperial Household and retained that position until 1898. Broad-minded and fearless, caring little for Imperial favour in itself and never counting the consequences of expressing honest opinions, he often exercised a salutary influence upon the Emperor's decisions. Alexander III differed constantly and fundamentally from his views, which were throughout life markedly liberal and free from all taint of courtiership; but the friendship between the two men persisted and remained an important factor in the political life of the Empire.

His independence of character and strong common sense were, however, to find even more fruitful scope in the Caucasus, whither he was sent by the Emperor Nicholas as Viceroy in 1905. A policy of forcible Russification had been attended by unhappy results. Discontent and lawlessness had spread throughout the whole region, mainly on account of repressive measures enforced by the representatives of the Central Government against the



native populations. Riots, massacres, and insurrections had followed each other in rapid succession, and an agrarian movement had arisen in consequence of the confiscation of the property of the Armenian Church by the decree of June 25, 1903. When Count Vorontzoff-Dashkoff reached the Caucasus on May 15, 1905, he was waited upon by a deputation and assured that, so far as the Armenians were concerned, he could rely upon their cordial co-operation, if only he would do away with the exceptional and repressive laws which, "while lowering the dignity of the Armenians as human beings, do nothing to enhance the glory of the Russian Empire."

Vorontzoff-Dashkoff took the Armenians at their word. The property of their Church was restored to them, and under his strong and fair rule they became the most loyal subjects of the Emperor. Similarly with the Musulmans, the Tartars, the Georgians, the Circassians, and the other elements of the population. One and all they found in the new Viceroy a just and able administrator, disposed to protect their rights and liberties against the reactionary proclivities of the Central Government, and asking from them in return only loyalty and observance of law. Thanks to Vorontzoff-Dashkoff and to the support given him by the Emperor Nicholas, Pan-Islamic propaganda and the intrigues of the Young Turks alike failed to make any impression upon the Russian Musulmans; and on the outbreak of the present war the Caucasus proved to be a source of strength to the Empire, whereas it had been, 10 years before, a constant cause of anxiety and weakness. The career of the late Viceroy is a striking illustration of what may be accomplished in Russia by an honest and fearless man devoted to the service of the Emperor and of his country, and doing, without thought of personal advantage, what he believes to be fair and right.

As a mark of affectionate gratitude in which the late Count was held by all Armenians, even by those who were not connected with the Caucasus, the Armenian colony in this country sent a telegram of condolence to the Countess through the Russian Embassy, to which the following reply was received:—

"Je suis profondément reconnaissante de votre souvenir et attachement à la memoire de celui que je pleure.—

Comtesse Elisabeth Vorontzoff-Dashkoff."

We hear with sorrow of the death of Dr. Shepherd, of Aintab, from typhoid fever. By his death the Armenians of Cilicia lose a friend and a great benefactor.

The Indian paper, *The Signs of the Times*, of Lucknow, reports that the British and Foreign Bible Society is at last enabled to labour in long-closed Abyssinia. An Armenian sub-agent has been allowed

by the Archbishop of that country to open a Bible shop in the capital, Adis Ababa. There has always been a connection, though not a very pronounced one, between the Churches of Armenia and Abyssinia. The latter Church is subject to the jurisdiction, under Turkish rule, of the Armenian patriarch of Constantinople; and though the Abyssinian Church retains its autocephalic hierarchy, it has not abandoned its communion with the Armenian Church. Moreover, it is said that, in the earlier centuries, the Armenian alphabet, invented by Mesrope, was adapted to the use of Abyssinia, there being a certain marked similarity between the two.

Pressure on our space has again compelled us to postpone the next instalment of the *Orange Book*, the publication of which is gradually drawing to an end. The question of space seems to be correlated in some way with the supply of wood-pulp and the issue of *Ararat*. We have just had a rude awakening from our printers that the price of paper has been doubled, which means the adoption of one of several alternatives. We must either reduce the bulk of our magazine, take a smaller number of copies, or have our edition printed on thinner and cheaper paper, otherwise the cost will seem disproportionate. Readers of *Ararat* need not be in any anxiety as to the output of their favourite monthly organ, which we shall endeavour to keep up to its standard so long as our printers' works and the paper factories do not come under dire destruction through German aerial craft.

## The Armenian Massacres in Sivas.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MURAD.

Once more the curtain drawn over the heinous details of Armenian massacres in Asia Minor is raised by that well-known fighter Murad of Sivas, the Armenian leader of the province. Starting from Shar-kishla, some 20 miles south-west of Sivas, with a small force, he opened his way to Divrig, lying about 60 miles south-east of Sivas; and after a great number of encounters with regular Turkish troops, he eventually entrenched himself on the heights of Yaldig Dag, north-east of Sivas where, surrounded by large numbers of the enemy, he kept up desperate fighting for eight days. Most of his comrades were killed in this unequal combat. He himself, however, succeeded in breaking through the Turkish lines and emerged on the coast, somewhere near Samsoun. Here he forced some Turkish boatmen to sail in the direction of Batoum. On the journey his boat was chased by some Turkish motor launches and fired on, and in this encounter one



of his comrades was killed by a bullet. He has just reached here to throw more light upon the horrors which have been committed in the vilayet of Sivas, and in parts of Kharput and Western Dersim.

For about 20 years Murad (a brother-in-arms of Andranik, the organiser of the present volunteer regiments) has been in the front ranks of the Armenian movement as a leading fighter, and the circumstances of his struggle since last March, and the story of his adventurous escape to Russia when all was over, would fill volumes. He has come to tell the outside world the news that of 160,000 Armenians inhabiting the province of Sivas, there remain now, or rather remained a month ago when he left, some 10,000 who have been spared either as useful artisans toiling in the labour battalions and in prisons, or old people left in their homes. The remaining 150,000 souls have either been directly massacred or deported to the area bounded by the right bank of the Euphrates and Northern Mesopotamia.

The story which Murad gave me reveals once more the thorough organisation of these massacres by an overmastering hand, and the ruthless processes by which the details were carried out. Anybody listening to Murad, who had been cut off from the rest of the world for eight months, would at once have thought it to be the story of the massacres either at Bitlis or any of the other places,—there is such a striking resemblance of detail in the work of destruction.

The persecutions began with the outbreak of the Turkish war. The Armenians of Sivas did all they could to help the Red Crescent work of the Turkish army either by personal service or contributions. Notwithstanding all these efforts, the Armenian element in particular was unscrupulously robbed under the cloak of military requisitions. In the meantime the Turks of Sivas did not conceal their intention of settling old scores with the Armenians, who had applied to Europe for reforms.

The storm burst on the problem of Armenian deserters from the Turkish army and the disarming of civilian Armenians. The Divisional Commander of Sivas had ordered that able-bodied men above 33 years of age and liable to service should get a permit from the military authorities for temporary exemption from entering the field; whereas Muamer Pasha, the Vali of Sivas, considered such a step as a sign of Armenian faithlessness. During December and January, most Armenian soldiers in the Turkish service were either disarmed and sent to the labour battalions, or were imprisoned as "suspicious" characters. The treatment they received in the army was of a most unenviable kind. A Holy War had been proclaimed by the Caliph and the fate of Infidels was in their hands. To mention an instance of an unfounded charge of desertion, six Armenians were hanged in Garin, three of them being brothers, who were absolutely innocent.

For disarming the Armenians the Turks employed the most fiendish methods: the order for delivering up all arms in the possession of civilians was nominally universal, but in fact it was directed against the Armenians. In Khourakhon, a village near Sivas, one man (Harutune) was actually shod like a horse: one (Mekertitch) was castrated, and another (Puzant) was done to death by putting a red-hot iron crown on his head. Under threats of such tortures many Armenians were compelled to buy arms and give them up to the authorities. The tragi-comical part of the whole business was that the Turkish officials, entrusted with the mission of gathering arms, were themselves selling them to Armenians at good profit. The object of these infamous proceedings seems to have been the wish of the Turkish Government to place the Armenians in the category of rebels, and indict them of having hidden arms in spite of official warnings.

Then, again, with a view to striking terror among Armenians, four or five of the leading men in every town or village were mysteriously shot; while most of the government officials of Armenian nationality were dismissed without any reason. Nishan Effendi, the sub-governor of Katchesur (province of Sivas), a man of good record, was peremptorily dismissed from his post with many others.

Towards the end of January last (1915) Odabashian Vartabed, the Armenian bishop-elect of Sivas, was proceeding to his post from Angora, when he was attacked on the way and killed in his carriage. It has now been proved beyond doubt that the plot was hatched with the cognisance of Muamer Pasha, the Governor, as among the murderers were Mahil Effendi of Zara, his aide-de-camp, Tcherkess Kior Kassim, his chief hangman, and two others.

During the course of February, Armenian soldiers on active service and Armenian bakers were accused by the authorities of having poisoned the soldiers' bread and food. The subsequent medical inquiry instituted by Turkish and Greek doctors easily proved the baselessness of so gross a charge.

The billeting of Turkish soldiers upon Armenians throughout the province, and their uninterrupted movement from one front to the other,\* Sivas being on the main road Angora-Erzzeroum, caused indescribable suffering to the defenceless population. Like famished wolves, the Turkish soldiers ate up everything they saw, and took everything they could lay hands on. In Ketchourd alone, an Armenian

\* As the Russian fleet had blockaded the Black Sea ports and transport by water was difficult, the Turks appeared to have been using the Anatolian Railway to Angora, the terminus of the line, for their communications, and thence to Erzzeroum through Sivas by horse and camel.—A.S.S.



village east of Sivas, the women were horribly outraged by the soldiers and six of the best looking of them were so ill-treated that they succumbed before the very eyes of their tormentors.

*Treatment of Russian Prisoners.*—Another incident of a quite impersonal character greatly embittered the relations between the Armenians and Turks. About 1,700 Russian prisoners of war captured by the Turks in February were brought to Sivas in a deplorable condition. The Russian soldiers of Moslem origin had already been released at Erzeroum, most of the Armenians had been killed, and the Russians were stripped of their clothing. On their way to Sivas they were grossly insulted, spat on by every Moslem passer-by, and whipped by their escort into quicker march. Half of their number reached Sivas almost naked, covered with filthy rags, their feet swollen, and in some cases their sheepskin coats glued to their sore bodies. In view of such outrageous treatment of these Russian prisoners, the Armenians of Sivas provided them with medical help and various comforts. This trivial manifestation of humane feeling displayed by the Armenians, however, caused great resentment among the Moslems. In spite of all such efforts, only some 60 Russians survived out of the contingent of 1,700 prisoners. The Turks picked quarrels with the Armenians when the latter tried to bury the Russian dead.

*Plot against Leaders.*—In the last days of March, Murad and other Armenian leaders were asked by the Vali of Sivas to attend a meeting for the deliberation of some important questions. Murad had, however, been privately informed by some Turkish friends that there was a plot against him and his comrades; he very naturally, therefore, failed to comply with the request of the Vali. The consequence of this was that the relatives of these men were subjected to shameful treatment at the hands of the Turks. Nevertheless, Armenians throughout Sivas, Kharput, Erzincan, Tchamesh-Kezak and elsewhere thought it wise to suffer these persecutions so as not to give any grounds for harsher measures. Fresh contingents of troops were sent to each village in April to collect an imaginary number of arms; and such arms were provided to the authorities in the manner already described. Courts-martial were set up in many places and people were summarily tried and sentenced. Hovhannes Poladian, Vahan Vartanian, Murad of Khouroukhon and twelve other leaders were shot. Men belonging to the *Daschnaksuthiun* and the *Huntchak* parties were subjected to 110 strokes each. These terrorising methods were carried out in thorough earnest in Oulash, Sharkishla, Kotchan, Gemerik, Gurin, Derende, Divrig, and other districts.

*Massacres on a greater scale.*—More dreadful days for Armenians began in June. On the assumption that every Armenian soldier was a deserter, and that his people at home had secreted numberless arms, the Turks never relaxed their policy of squeezing out of Armenians

every *piastre* they could get by employing the most brutal means. Towards the end of June and the beginning of July, massacres on a far vaster scale were carried out in various parts of the area referred to. The methods pursued in these massacres were precisely the same as anywhere else in Armenia; men were separated from their women and the latter driven in a south-easterly direction. The able-bodied manhood were first imprisoned and then massacred in small batches under blood-curdling circumstances. For the space of two weeks, Murad thinks, 5,000 Armenians were daily disposed of in the various districts of the province. At Maltepe, a village an hour's ride east of Sivas, some twenty Armenian officials in the government service were hacked to pieces with pointed and spiked hatchets. At Duzasar, another Armenian village near Sivas, 32 Armenians were done to death in the same manner.

At Habesh, near Zara, east of Sivas, 3,800 Armenians of the neighbourhood were poleaxed, stoned or bayoneted in a fiendish manner. In Khorsan, the headman of the village named Nigoghos, was hanged upside down on the Boghaz bridge near the village. At Gotni, another village with 120 Armenian families, Turkish Bashi-bazuks, mostly released convicts organised into *Cheta* bands, gloried in the achievement of having killed every male above 12, and outraged every woman above the same age.

At Herag, a village near Sivas, the men were killed, the young women were carried away, and about 600 children were detained by the Vali, perhaps to be converted to Islam. The women of Malatia were stripped naked, and amid the gibes and jeers of the Moslem rabble were driven out from their homes; many young women actually went mad, others resorted to hideously painful means to put an end to their lives. At Niksar, north of Sivas, most of the young women were distributed among the Turks, and the remainder were deported to the south.

During his wanderings Murad happened to see that only 300 children and old people were left in the town of Tchar-Shamba, near the coast, where there was a large prosperous colony before. The young people of both sexes were either killed, abducted or deported from their homes; no child above 10 years of age remained among the survivors.

In the territory extending from Amasia, north-west of Sivas, to Erzincan and Kharput, the Armenian element has been reduced to the same condition. In certain centres like Arabkir, Tchamesh-kezak, etc., some families escaped persecution by adopting Islam.

About 15,000 Armenians of Erzincan and the surrounding district were in most part drowned in the Euphrates near the Kemak gorge the Armenians of Baiburt are also reported to have suffered the same:



fate in the river Karasu, a tributary of the Euphrates. With the exception of some thirty Armenian families at Samsoun, all Persian subjects, and a few other families spared here and there, Murad states that all along the Black Sea coast the industrious Armenian element has been cleared out of their homes, and their property distributed among local or immigrant Moslems.

In the town of Sivas itself, which comprised some 25,000 Armenians, many of the important inhabitants have either been killed or deported to the deserts. There remain now some 120 Armenian families in the town, consisting mainly of children and elderly folk.

*Attempts at self-defence.*—Amid this extensive field of unopposed slaughter and destruction, it is possible, however, to record brave deeds, leading subsequently to heroic deaths, both of men and of women.

Armenians of Duzasar, Garva, Khorsan, Khantzod, etc., all in the province of Sivas, made every possible sacrifice with a view to preventing an inter-racial outbreak in the early stages of the war; but when they were convinced that the attitude of passive existence they had adopted did not avail in any way, they took up arms, and supported by their compatriots of Gurin, Gemerig, Divrig, Ketch Magara, Mandjalik, etc., fought for days against Moslem soldiers and bands and treated the enemy in the way they had themselves been treated.

The Armenians of Shabin-Karahissar and Amasia, exasperated at the unaccountable savagery of the Turks, took to reprisals. They burnt down the Moslem quarters and the Government buildings in their respective towns, and temporarily drove the Turks from them. Later, however, they were overwhelmed by fresh and large Turkish forces and died fighting to the last.

Sirpouhi and Santukht, two young women of Ketcheurd, a village east of Sivas, while being led off to the harem by Turks, threw themselves into the river Halys, and were drowned with their infants in their arms. Mdle. Sirpouhi, the 19-year-old daughter of Garabed Tufenkjian of Herag, a graduate of the American College of Marsovan, was offered the choice of saving herself by embracing Islam and marrying a Turk. Sirpouhi retorted that it was an outrage to murder her father and then make her a proposal of marriage. She would have nothing to do with a godless and murderous people; whereupon she and seventeen other Armenian young girls, who had refused conversion, were shamefully ill-treated and afterwards killed near Tchamli-belli gorge.

The rich Shahinian family of Sivas, father, sons and one daughter, the 14-year old Khanum, escaped the authorities who wanted to

capture them, and fought for four hours at the entrance of a narrow mountain pass against considerable odds. They were, however, all killed when they ran short of their cartridges.

I could prolong the story of these acts of desperate bravery on the one side and of murderous frenzy on the other. The grim reality of these horrible crimes was forcibly brought home to me when, at my interview with Murad, some young ladies and many Armenians of Sivas, anxious to hear something of their dear ones they had left before the war, came to see Murad. Their inquiries about their relatives and friends could only be answered tersely by Murad as to the time and manner in which they were killed or deported. The percentage of murders in the cases of which inquiries were made on this occasion was much higher than that of deportations. One of the girls present, on being told that everyone she had inquired about had been killed, was shocked and intensely moved—yet, powerfully suppressing her strong emotions, she took a solemn oath, an oath of . . . . . which was shared by all present.

A. S. SAFRASTIAN.

Tiflis,

December 15th, 1915.

## The Situation in Armenia.

*The Armenians of Erzeroum.*—The fall of Erzeroum, the capital of Armenia, into the hands of the Russians brings joy and a new hope to all Armenians throughout the world. For thereby the door of Armenia is opened to the Tzar's Army—the liberators of Armenia, and we hope that they will press on until they deliver that country from the reign of the bloody Turk and give her peace, for which they have fought and died and even reached the verge of extermination. This has been the price paid, and now Armenians hail this occasion as the beginning of the realisation of their hopes.

The daily papers have reported that the Armenian population warmly welcomed the Russian troops. We wonder if there were many of them left. The city had an Armenian population of 25,000 before the war. How glad they must have been after living in hell for 18 months!

The following story, which appeared in *Mschak*, Dec. 19th, 1915, tells us something of the condition of the Armenians and the treachery of the Turks—the violation of their solemn promises, which has been their weapon for ages:—

“Ali-Aghazadé Faro, a Kurd, related to some Armenians of St. Garabed, who found refuge in Caucasia, that he had gone to Erzeroum last September to sell sheep, etc., and to get his share of the



booty from the Armenians if possible. Faro remained in Erzeroum for five or six days, during which he did not see a single Armenian. He only saw Turks sitting in the shops of the Armenians. When he asked how it was that they were in the shops of the Armenians, some answered that they had bought them, others said they were gifts to them from the Government.

"Faro spent the night in a Turkish house, and asked the host what had become of the Armenians. The host replied as follows:—

"It was at the end of May when the Governor asked all the leaders and prominent Armenians to go to him. He told them that they were obliged to abandon the city to the enemy, consequently the army would retreat from the place. Therefore he instructed them to get ready and join him within 24 hours. They had to get ready, but as all means of transportation had been requisitioned, they could take practically nothing with them. Before the 24 hours were up they all gathered near the government building without knowing what was impending. Several hundred gendarmes surrounded them immediately and drove them out of the city towards the West. They were taken as far as Charuk-Dersim (Doujik). The Kurds of Dersim had already received their orders. They attacked them and killed every one. Another group of Armenians were deported toward Sivas. They were seen passing through the Kemakh Pass, but what happened to them has never been known. A few hundred of their most beautiful girls were captured by certain Turks, and the Government was still looking for them."

*Sundry Reports and Contradictions.*—We are very glad to be able to disprove the assassination of Bishop Kenell Kalemkerian, the Armenian Bishop of Sivas, reported in the December number of *Ararat*. A private letter from Sivas, dated November 26th, 1915, to America, tells of his safety in Sivas. We learn from the same source that the Armenian orphan girls of the Swiss Orphanage at Sivas were also spared the horrors of deportation.

According to "Arev" of Alexandria, the Turkish Government has made an official declaration in which all the public and private institutions and property belonging to the deported Armenians are to be sold by the Committee of Young Turks, and the proceeds to be turned over to the Government.

According to reports from Copenhagen, dated Jan. 23rd, travellers from Constantinople say that while the Armenians were being persecuted by the Turkish Government, the civilians also joined in. A mob would go from one street to another and enter the houses to drag the Armenians out. Sixteen Armenians were found on Galata Bridge who had been lynched. Von Der Goltz Pasha sent orders to stop it when it was too late. They also remark that things are quieter there since the evacuation of Gallipoli.

It is reported from Bucharest that the Court-martial at Constantinople has given M. Tatarian, a publisher, ten days to appear before the tribunal on the accusation of having published the pictures of Armenian heroes and of an Independent Armenia. And as Tatarian cannot be found anywhere the police have acquired a good excuse to enter the Armenian houses in search of him.

*Gotchnag* tells the story of the resignation of Hovhannes Khan Masehian, the Persian ambassador at Berlin. The Armenian Committee of the community of Berlin prepared a memorandum to be presented to the authorities of Berlin as a protest against the Turkish policy of extermination. The memorandum also requested the German Government to use means to stop Turkey's barbarism. They took this memorandum to Hovhannes Khan, who signed it without hesitation; and it was for this act that he was forced to resign. M. Masehian is a man of letters; he has translated the best works of Shakespeare into Armenian; he has been the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Persia, etc.

A group of 30 Armenians who have reached Geneva report that a number of Armenians were saved from deportation and death through the bravery of Mr. J. Jackson, the American Consul at Aleppo. "Mr. Jackson has saved the Armenians of Aleppo and the surrounding villages from massacre," one of the rescued in Geneva—an octogenarian Armenian—has said, "America saved us from death. There are still thousands in our country who are eagerly waiting for deliverance. It is only America that can help us."

*Armenia's great need.*—It is about a year since the 60,000 refugees from Alaskert poured into Transcaucasia. They found refuge among the hospitable Armenians of Transcaucasia, and some of them had already begun to return to their homes when the great Russian retreat from Van took place with its horrible consequences for the Armenians. A quarter of a million men, women and children became destitute within a few days, and were entirely dependent on the charity of those whose means and efforts were utterly inadequate to meet this sudden emergency. The result was that many perished of hunger and exhaustion. Financial aid was sent to these sufferers from all parts of the world, but the need was so great that even these large amounts were insufficient to save many from starvation. Other factors which added to the difficulty of providing for the needs of the refugees were the adverse climate of Transcaucasia, scarcity of food, and the lack of efficient and systematic organisation on the part of those who undertook this most difficult task.

To the great need of the refugees in Transcaucasia should be added that of those who are still living in Turkey, away from their homes and loved ones. We understand that it has been possible for some Americans to extend help to these deported Armenians. The



latest report of the American Relief Committee for the Armenians shows that £50,000 have been raised for the need of the deported Armenians. £20,000 have been sent to Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador at Constantinople, and £15,000 have been sent to Tiflis for the need of the refugees in Transcaucasia. Mr. Morgenthau has informed the committee that means have been found whereby aid has been sent to some of the exiles, scattered all over the country, and he hopes that after a time it will be possible to extend this relief still further.

The Caucasian papers announce the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Wilson and the Rev. Mr. Hill, the representatives of the American Relief Committee, at Tiflis, who have decided to supply the refugees with shelter and warm clothing and who intend to go to Mesopotamia and extend their aid to the deported Armenians in the deserts. We have not heard whether they have succeeded in reaching those parts, and whether they have found any survivors.

We read in *Gotchnag* that when Mrs. Morgenthau, the wife of the American Ambassador of Turkey, who recently returned from Constantinople, was talking to some Armenian women about the condition of the Armenians in Turkey, she told them with her eyes full of tears that the papers do not describe half the sufferings of the Armenians, and if they only knew in what condition their brothers and sisters were, they would sell all their jewels and fine clothes and send them money in great quantities at once.

Another missionary, who has just returned from Turkey, said that the need is so great if £20,000 could be sent every week, it would only lighten their sufferings a little.

*The Armenians and the War.*—*Le Petit Marseillais* publishes the following article:—

“Much has been said of the Armenians and the terrible massacres committed by the Turks, but until now, the part they are playing in this war has not been sufficiently brought forth. In spite of their unfortunate situation they are bearing their share in the noble cause of the Allies, which is theirs as well.

“It is evident that the Armenians, under the Turkish yoke, were looked upon with suspicion from the beginning, as they favoured the Entente, and in spite of their loyalty they were persecuted by the Turks with a cruelty unparalleled in modern history. During the last six months more than one million Armenians have perished by deportations *en masse* and massacres.

“But this was not done without resistance. If the women and children living in the open plains were easy victims to the Turkish persecutors, they were obliged to fight against brave

Armenians who defended themselves heroically in the mountains of Zeitoun, Moush, Sasoun, Kara-Hissar and Antioch, instead of submitting to the horrible fate prepared for them. Very often Turks had to bring important forces from the Caucasian front and hurl them against these Armenians.

“When the Russians reached Van, they found the city in the hands of the Armenians, who received them as liberators. The inhabitants of this city had resisted Turkish artillery for two months.

“This desperate resistance, which is justifiable by history and which cannot be called revolution, as the Turks do, shows us how a really peace-loving people, when driven to extremes, can prove its valour.

“But if the Turks turn Turkish Armenia into a hell, there is Russian Armenia on the other side of the Caucasian frontier where Armenians live happy and prosperous lives, under the protection of the Tzar. Many of these—hundreds of thousands—are doing their duty proudly in the Russian Army, where their ancestors have left brilliant records in the 19th century through generals like Loris Melikoff, Der-Ghougasoff, Lazareff, Chelgornig, etc.

“Lately the newspapers reported that General Haroutunoff, of the Russian army, during his advance in Galicia had ordered all the inhabitants of an occupied district to give him all their movable property. After his orders were carried out he told the peasants of Galicia, ‘Now take back all your property and return to your work in perfect safety. I merely wanted to show the difference between your generals and ours; when they come near us they rob all our peasants.’ This General Haroutunoff is an Armenian.

“Much has been written about Captain Torkom. This brave officer had fought with the Bulgarians against the Turks during the Balkan War. He volunteered in the Russian army at the beginning of the present war. He was wounded in a battle in Galicia and was lying in a hospital in Petrograd, where he made his stirring appeal to the Bulgarians and returned them their medals. Newspapers announce that Captain Torkom’s wounds are healed and he is getting ready to return to the battlefield with 30,000 Armenian volunteers. Torkom is an Armenian.

“It would be too long a story to enumerate all the Armenians who are showing their prowess in this war. We know that 2,000 of them are in the French army as volunteers. There are Armenians even in the Canadian contingents.



"But it is specially important to mention, as a proof of their share in this war, the army of volunteers now in Russia on the Caucasian front, and in Persia. This army is made up of thousands who are supplied with munitions and all their expenses are paid by the Armenians themselves. M. Sazonoff praised these volunteers from the platform of the Duma, and their brave acts which are recorded daily in the official reports.

"The Armenians, though they suffer terribly, remain always faithful to their historic mission of being the advance guard of civilisation in the East, and shed their blood in this war, as France and her Allies, to defend the cause of righteousness and liberty."

G. H. PAELIAN.

## A Standard-Bearer of Gladstone.

Mr. Arthur G. Symonds, whose portrait we give this month, was born at Madras in 1844. He was the second son of the Rev. A. R. Symonds, for many years the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in the south of India. When eight years old Mr. Symonds was brought to England, and after education at the Bristol and the Kensington Grammar Schools he went to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he took his degree with Honours in 1867. In 1868 he became a classical master at the Manchester Grammar School, and for some years he was engaged in educational work at that school and at the Owen's College, and as a private tutor and lecturer in Manchester and the surrounding district.

Being an ardent Liberal, Mr. Symonds' nature was not that of one who would allow his talents to lie fallow while the political sphere needed men of action. In 1875 he took an active part in the resuscitation of that old Liberal organisation, the National Reform Union, of which he was appointed Secretary early in 1876, a post which he held for 37 years, during which he took a prominent share in the reorganisation of the Liberal Party, which had suffered a severe defeat at the General Election of 1874. His political work was known in all parts of the country, and he was a welcome speaker at meetings, and in 1895 he was adopted as the Liberal candidate for the High Peak Division of Derbyshire, but was defeated after a gallant fight.

A staunch and enthusiastic political disciple of Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Symonds took a very active part in the great campaign initiated by his leader against Turkey at the time of the "Bulgarian Atrocities," and in a Greek paper, published at Athens, he was once spoken of as "a standard-bearer of Gladstone," which we have taken as an apt title to this sketch. From this time forward, though naturally most



ARTHUR G. SYMONDS, M.A.



of his work lay in the field of British domestic politics, Mr. Symonds was known as one of the most zealous champions of the oppressed subjects of the Porte, and as an ardent advocate of the "bag and baggage" policy that Mr. Gladstone maintained to be the right policy to be adopted by England in her dealings with Turkey. By voice and pen, at many a meeting through the length and breadth of the land and in many a newspaper article, he supported his leader in calling for justice and freedom for all who suffered under the brutal tyranny of Abdul Hamid, and none worked harder than he did during the latter years of the last century to bring his countrymen to recognise their solemn duty towards Armenia under the Treaty of Berlin.

After the General Election of 1906, in which he took a very active part, advancing years and failing health led Mr. Symonds to give up most of his work in the sphere of party politics, and he devoted more of his time and energy to questions of foreign policy, especially those of the Near East. He was an original member of the Balkan Committee and was appointed its Secretary in 1910, and in 1913 he became Secretary of the Balkan War Relief Fund and also of the Ægean Islands Committee, which was afterwards merged in the Anglo-Hellenic League. In the same year he formed the British Armenia Committee, of which he has acted as Secretary ever since, and it is in this capacity that he is best known to the readers of *Ararat*. The genesis of this Committee, as told by himself, is worthy of record in these pages. During the early stages of the Turko-Balkan War, when the victories of the Balkan armies followed one another in quick succession and the prospect of the expulsion of the Turks from Europe appeared so hopeful and so imminent, Mr. Symonds, as he was falling asleep one night, saw the word *Armenia* written in letters of fire before his closed eyes, and the thought immediately sprang into his mind—"If the Turks be expelled from Europe and driven into Asia Minor, what will be the fate of the Armenians, on whom their inveterate enemies will pour 'like a wolf on the fold'?" On the following day he wrote to a few persons whom he knew to be sympathetic towards Armenia, and suggested that steps should at once be taken to avert, if possible, the threatened danger. A small meeting was called, before which he read a paper summarising the position, and a resolution was passed that immediate action should be taken to arouse both the Government and the people of Great Britain to their direct responsibility in the matter. Meanwhile, and quite independently of this movement, which was of a private character, some leading Armenians in London had met in consultation and decided on similar action. A deputation of three of their number, not one of whom was personally known to Mr. Symonds or had ever before even spoken to him, called on him and begged him to take up the cause of Armenia as he had taken up the cause of other oppressed peoples. This he consented to do on the lines of the Committee which he proceeded to form, and which, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., and



with the support of men like Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., and Dr. Rendel Harris, has devoted itself to the question of Armenia's present and future position. Though, alas! from causes which it could not control, its success has not been such as was at one time hoped for, Armenians will be grateful to the Committee for its efforts in the past on behalf of their fellow-countrymen, and for its watchful solicitude for the momentous future, fraught with the destiny of their unhappy country. And whatever befall them, they will ever bear in mind with feelings of deepest gratitude the founder of that Committee who, during a long and strenuous life, has manifested so much zeal and devotion in the sacred cause of their beloved land.

## Conditions in the Caucasus, as reported by a British Consul.

In our last issue we reproduced a communication to the Foreign Office from the British Consul at Batoum. To this was attached a Memorandum on the condition of the Armenian refugees in the Caucasus. We are fortunate in being able to place before our readers two further Memoranda, which we have marked II and III, from the same official sources. These will be found to contain valuable information and statistics, and will bring home to us the gigantic nature of the task with which the Relief Organisations in Transcaucasia are confronted.

### II.

#### MEMORANDUM.

Although the considerable sums that have recently been finding their way to Russia are being applied to the relief of Armenian refugees in the Caucasus and the numerous consignments of clothing placed by various organisations at the disposal of the Relief Committees are being served out to them, the need of the refugees for further urgent help is reported to be still very great.

Prince Argudinsky-Dolgorukov, the Acting Representative of the Caucasian Section of the Urban Union, after having visited the refugee camps at Bambak and Delijan furnishes the following report on his tour of inspection :—

Four thousand refugees are concentrated in the twenty-six villages which he visited in the districts named above; the more wealthy villages housing a greater number of fugitives than the less important ones. He found that, as a rule, two refugees are quartered in each

house. In the whole of this district, excepting at Karakeliss, the refugees are everywhere gratuitously lodged. The same rations are issued to the refugees in all the villages, i.e., they consist of: one and a half pounds of flour and a cash allowance of five copecks (one penny) per diem per person. Children under two years old receive no rations or money allowance. They are, however, very few in number. Most of the children coming under this denomination have died from hunger, cold, and as a result of the fearful sufferings to which the refugees have been subjected since last summer.

At Karakeliss all dwellings are in satisfactory condition. In some of the villages fuel—mainly wood, procured in the neighbouring forests—is issued out to the refugees. In this district the latter possess about 1,000 head of cattle.

The exceedingly well organised Relief Committee of the Karakeliss Brotherhood is very attentive to the needs of the refugees. Their registration has been admirably arranged by this Committee. Full particulars of the refugees, and the relief received, are entered in the register book kept by the Committee. The latter has two representatives who periodically visit the refugee villages, attend to the issue of rations, inquire into the urgent needs of the refugees and to their other requirements. The Committee further endeavour to find work for the refugees.

The Committee has recently prepared two hundred stoves and a quantity of warm clothing for the refugees. They are daily furnished with boiling water and sugar. An unsatisfactory feature of relief work at Karakeliss is the difficulty experienced in receiving flour and money from Alexandropol. At times twenty days are required for this purpose. Owing to the short cereal crop of 1915 in the district, no local flour is procurable; consequently the refugees frequently remain in a practically starving condition. The Prince Argudinsky was surprised to find that no means had yet been devised by which the transport of flour and the transmission of money over so short a distance could be accelerated.

The Urban Union maintain a fairly well organised and equipped hospital for fifty beds at Karakeliss. This establishment, however, lacks an operating room, a mortuary and a disinfecting camera.

An Orphanage managed by the Petrograd Armenian Committee has also been opened at Karakeliss. It accommodates 170 beds. The premises are good, are well kept and clean. The children belonging to the Orphanage are taught at the Church School at Karakeliss. They are all well dressed, but do not get sufficient food. This affects their outward appearance, and the orphans are consequently pale and somewhat emaciated. Prince Argudinsky was informed that at times some of the children would wake up at night and seek for remains of bread left about during the day.



The Tairov Asylum for Orphans, maintained at the personal expense of Mrs. U. M. Tairov, impressed the Prince very favourably. The Orphanage is equipped for 25 orphans belonging to soldiers and for 25 fatherless and motherless refugees. The children are well accommodated with plenty of room in a fine and spacious building. They are made to work. They tidy up and clean the rooms, wash their own linen, wash up crockery, pans and utensils, lay the tables, assist in cooking, and perform all other domestic work. They are taught to read and write and also various trades. The children sing in Armenian and Russian to the accompaniment of a piano. They are well dressed and shod. Their robust and healthy appearance testifies to good living conditions and also points to the fact that Mrs. Tairov and the whole of the personnel of the establishment put a good deal of energy into their work and are much concerned in the welfare of the children.

The conditions obtaining in the district of Kazah are not so satisfactory as they are at Karakeliss. The need for methodical organisation in supervising relief work and introducing a defined plan of action is everywhere noticeable.

About 4,500 refugees are concentrated in this locality, viz.: 3,145 Armenians, 805 Nestorians, and 550 Armenian orphans. The latter are accommodated in the Orphanage of Delijan.

Up to the 23rd November last, the above refugees were receiving a cash allowance of 10 copecks (2d.) per person per diem. On that date, however, this cash allowance was increased to 15 copecks (3d.) a day. Until the 20th November the Urban Union maintained feeding stations at the more important refugee centres, but to the great disappointment of the refugees, these stations were then closed and victualling was taken over by the Police authorities and the Village Committees, which continue to perform these duties. The refugees here receive at the rate of 1lb. 32zol. (about one English lb.) of flour and a cash allowance of 7 copecks (1½d.) per diem per person. Fuel is not distributed to all the refugees. Some of the latter have had warm clothing—supplied by the Armenian Benevolent Society—served out to them, others have been furnished with iron stoves.

No Special Committee which could take over the management of relief work exists in this district. The Delijan Committee partly performs the duties which would devolve on the former. No properly organised system of affording relief is provided. Very few individual refugees unwillingly seek work. The invariable excuse put forward for refusing work is the absence of proper clothing for taking on open air work. Also that no food is procurable where work is offering, in consequence of which the refugees have to starve. Up to the 2nd December, the refugees were supplied with tea and sugar by the Urban Union. For some unknown reason, this allowance has recently been discontinued.

Hospital arrangements are good in this district. The hospital is maintained out of funds supplied by the Urban Union.

The ground floor of a wing of an unoccupied barrack building has been adapted to accommodate refugees. The building, although spacious, is gloomy and dark, and is exceedingly badly ventilated. The upper floor is temporarily occupied by 123 orphans, who are cared for by the Armenian Central Committee. The children go about bare-foot.

At Delijan four Asylums for children exist. Prince Argudinsky was only able to visit one of these establishments. The one inspected by him is managed by Princess Tumanov and is maintained out of funds furnished by the Armenian Benevolent Society. After their dinners, the children go to school. They look strong and healthy, and their appearance evinces care and kind treatment in every respect. According to information obtained by Prince Argudinsky the other three Asylums at Delijan are likewise well managed and kept.

The relief extended to the refugees at Delijan is only of a primitive nature; the same remark cannot, however, be applied to the unsatisfactory conditions obtaining in this connection in the district of Kazah. Here the question of housing the refugees is one of the most painful features of the relief work undertaken. In a large number of villages in this district the refugees are mostly accommodated in overcrowded and dark, abandoned and unheated sheds and shops. For some unaccountable reason warm clothing has not been issued to them. They do not receive their rations of flour and cash allowances with regularity, and no Central Organisation to inquire into their immediate and urgent needs exists on the spot.

The Baku Refugee Committee has just forwarded several further lots of 10,000 quilts, 12,000 mattresses and sacks, 12,000 pillow cases, 600 jackets, 3,000 shirts, 3,000 pairs of drawers; and the Tiflis Committee 400 quilts, 4,000 mattresses, 4,000 pillow cases, 200 jackets, 1,000 shirts and 1,000 pairs of drawers to the Governors of Elizavetpol and Erivan to be served out to the refugees. The latter Committee has also sent several bales of clothing to Persia and to Turkish Asia Minor for the refugees, but according to the newspapers a large proportion of the fugitives are still in utmost poverty and to a very great extent are wanting in most things that make the continuance of life possible.

Seventy-six railway truck loads of flour, of which 53 were for the needs of the Armenian Refugees in the Government of Erivan and 23 for the use of those in the Government of Elizavetpol, left Gulevich in the Northern Caucasus a few days ago. These trucks, under ordinary conditions, should already have reached their respective destinations.



Owing to anticipated heavy snow drifts at the Ahta-Pass (Kars-Karakeliss direction) the Zemstvo Union gave orders a few days ago that all its Refugee Victualling and Provisioning stations should be moved to Igdir.

According to information obtained by Mr. Sarebey, the Dragoman of the Vice-Consulate at Van, from the Armenian Bishop of Erivan and from various other data he has been able to procure on the spot, the number of Armenian refugees in the Caucasus is 173,038, of whom 105,000 are from the Province of Van; 48,000 from the districts of Alashkert, Bayazid and Passir, and 20,038 from Moush, Boulanik, &c., &c.

They are housed as follows:—

Government of Erivan:

Town of Erivan .. .. .	18,820	
Villages in the neighbourhood of Erivan ..	14,680	
Market town of Vagarshapat .. .. .	5,360	
Villages of the district of same name ..	22,730	
Town of Nakhichevan .. .. .	271	
District of Nakhichevan .. .. .	468	
Igdir .. .. .	1,028	
Surmalin .. .. .	7,342	
Town of Alexandropol .. .. .	8,450	
Villages in the neighbourhood of Alexandropol	14,121	
Sharori .. .. .	268	
Town of Novo Bayazid .. .. .	1,164	
Villages of Novo Bayazid district .. ..	10,336	
	-----	105,038

Government of Elizavetpol:

Town of Elizavetpol .. .. .	12,000	
Villages, district of Elizavetpol .. .. .	5,000	
District of Karabagh .. .. .	1,000	
	-----	18,000

Province of Kars:

Town of Kars and adjacent villages ..	26,000	
Karakeliss .. .. .	4,000	
	-----	30,000

Government of Tiflis:

City of Tiflis .. .. .	5,000	
Villages of the district of Tiflis .. ..	3,000	
	-----	8,000

Northern Caucasus (probably the Armenian town of Nakhichevan-on-Don) .. .. .

12,000

Grand Total .. .. . 173,038

The number of refugees in the Caucasus from Khoi and Salmas is small, about 1,000. They are housed principally at Nakhichevan and a few at Erivan.

The foregoing figures differ from those obtained from an official source and which set the number of refugees in the Caucasus in round figures at 140,000. The data now procured by Sarebey, who is on the spot, originating as they do from Armenian sources and being in greater detail, are likely to be more correct than the information then furnished.

Reports received through the newspapers from Colonel Termen state that the situation at Van has recently improved. It would appear that 6,000 refugees have returned to the town, which has been sub-divided into four Police districts. Strict measures to prevent further pillage and destruction of property have been introduced at Van. Ordinary necessities of life are procurable, although only in very small quantities. Some threshing machines and four or five flour mills have resumed work in the district, with the result that several bakeries have re-opened.

All persons, organisations and other bodies in the Caucasus and elsewhere that have Armenian orphans from Van and its district in their care, have been requested to furnish particulars to the Governor of Van in regard to the names, ages, parentage and native places of the orphans in their charge. Also, where possible, information is asked for as to any property their deceased parents may have possessed in order to enable the authorities to institute a search for, and appoint guardians to protect, such property.

The spread of disease has been stayed. The town has assumed a cleaner and more orderly appearance. In some streets the restoration of buildings has been commenced. Ten or twelve shops and stores have resumed trade.

The Armenian newspaper *Orizon* states the news from Salmas is very unsatisfactory. Bishop Nerses' urgent appeal for warm clothing has hitherto remained unheeded. Only a small quantity of clothing forwarded by the Tabriz Women's Committee has reached him, but the articles sent are like a drop in the ocean. The cold is excessive.

Batoum,

December 29th, 1915.

III.

REPORT ON ACTIVITY OF ARMENIAN REFUGEE RELIEF ORGANISATIONS IN THE CAUCASUS AND TURKISH ARMENIA.

The Armenian organisations in the Caucasus which have been so active in relieving Christian refugees since the first arrival of the latter in this country in the early days of July last, still continue their good work.



The number of victims of the war who took refuge in the Caucasus from Turkish-Armenia and Persia, in roughly estimated figures, is 150,000. The influx of refugees, however, continued for some time after July. There is, therefore, good reason to believe, that the number of refugees who crossed the Russian border was in excess of the figures quoted above.

The refugees for the most part settled in the Government of Erivan, and principally at and about the town of Etchmiadzin. Housing accommodation, for such large numbers, could not here be provided, and the refugees, in the circumstances, had to be accommodated without cover in yards and open spaces in the neighbourhood of the Monastery of Etchmiadzin.

Daily telegrams from Etchmiadzin to the Principal Relief Committee at Tiflis, depicted an indeed painful situation, and reported that from 350 to 400 deaths were daily taking place owing to the destitute and starving conditions that prevailed amongst the refugees.

At this time relief work was in the hands partly of the "Chief Caucasian Committee for Succouring Victims of the War" and partly in those of the Red Cross Society. Shortly after several other public bodies joined in relief work.

The combined efforts of these various organisations had little effect in improving the situation. The funds at their respective disposal were small and quite out of proportion to the enormous numbers of the refugees whose ranks kept on swelling, especially after the heavy fighting that took place last summer on the Caucasian front.

Meanwhile the insanitary conditions of the refugees, in view of the very hot weather, was daily becoming more and more appalling. Dysentery, spotted fever, typhoid, measles, diphtheria, and subsequently cholera, all of which were assuming epidemic form, were thinning the numbers of the refugees at a very rapid rate, and yet, despite this alarming situation, the funds necessary to successfully cope with the deplorable conditions were not forthcoming.

Finally the Caucasian Section of the All Russia Urban Union, after a hurried investigation of matters prepared a rough estimate of the money needed for the immediate relief of the refugees, and a grant of Rbs. 1,103,250 (£110,325 about) was asked for by the Section from its Principal Organisation. This money was shortly afterwards remitted to the Caucasus, and the urgent needs of the hordes of refugees were then and there met. The temporary measures of relief adopted gave the Caucasian organisations a short time to think matters over and to decide on further action in connection with relief work.

Accordingly steps were taken to bring the pressing needs of the refugees before the public, and in response to appeals made throughout the Caucasus, in Russia and abroad, moneys were collected privately; the Russian Government contributed important sums, and latterly

funds have been flowing in from the United Kingdom and America. With these moneys relief work is being extended on a wider scale, and the requirements of the refugees are being more closely attended to; but the needs of the fugitives are still very great and more and more moneys are required.

The necessity for additional important sums is to a great extent called forth in view of a new series of tasks the Urban Union has taken upon itself to carry out, together with the heavy responsibilities it has had to accept in connection with refugee relief work outside the confines of the Caucasus.

A comparatively speaking large number of refugees have latterly been returning to their native lands, and the Julfa-Van and Igdir-Van roads have had to be placed under the immediate supervision of the Caucasian Section of the Urban Union. A number of kitchen and housing stations have had to be opened at various points on these two routes which the Union will have to maintain at its expense, for a considerable period, in view of the tendency of some of the refugees who, depending on safety having been restored in their native country, are anxious to return home.

The organisation of the kitchen and housing stations in the Julfa-Van direction is reported to be proceeding apace under the guidance of the Representative of the Caucasian Committee of the Urban Union, and the work is being carried out in complete harmony with, and according to the directions and indications of the Military Authorities.

The Urban Union has also undertaken to equip and open a hospital for 200 beds for refugees at Van, which it will also maintain at its expense.

The duties of the Urban Union do not end here, for it has been called upon by the Viceregal authority to perform many other functions connected with refugee relief work; the difficulties they present have to be faced with as much energy and resource as all the other duties taken over by this body.

The following is a list of the medical and kitchen stations which have been opened by the Union and are at present serving the needs of the refugees in the areas mentioned above:—

#### I.

##### HOSPITALS.

##### 1. *At points at which the refugees originally settled.*

(a) At Etchmiadzin.—A Hospital consisting of several buildings belonging to the Monastery and to its Academy which have been temporarily adapted to accommodate 570 beds for patients of both sexes and for children.

A Cholera ward No. 5, in which owing to the disappearance of the disease no cases are at present under treatment. The vacant beds of this ward (70) are now being used for cases of spotted fever.



A flying medical column (consisting of a medical officer, his assistant, and several competent attendants) has been provisionally formed to attend to those sick refugees who are within the limits of Monastery territory.

Three miles distant from the Monastery, on the road to the railway station at Etchmiadzin, a medical quarantine station has been established. Healthy refugees at this point are subjected to a quarantine of four to five days before they are allowed to proceed to the station for the purpose of entraining *en route* to the Government at Elizavetpol. On their journey, the refugees are accompanied by a medical officer and two professional assistants.

(b) At Igdir.—A hospital, in temporarily occupied buildings, accommodating 100 beds, and three and a half miles from this point at a village named Plur—a hospital for 50 beds.

(c) At Erivan.—A hospital, in private houses provisionally rented, which provides 200 beds. A quarantine station of a temporary type has also been opened in connection with this hospital. Two assistant medical officers are placed in charge of the latter establishment, and they accompany refugees by rail to their places of settlement in the Government of Elizavetpol.

(d) At Alexandropol.—A hospital, in premises rented temporarily, accommodating 200 beds, to which an isolation section has been added.

Within the limits of the district of Elizavetpol several stations, in charge of which assistant medical officers are placed, have been established.

## 2. Along the route of advance of the refugees.

(a) Nijni-Ahti.—A hospital for 50 beds. Assistant medical officers' stations at Elenovka and Tchibuhli.

(b) Delijan.—A hospital for 50 beds.

## 3. In places where refugees have more or less settled.

(a) Novo-Bayazid (Erivan).—A hospital for 50 beds.

(b) Annenfeld.—A hospital for 80 beds.

(c) Kedabek.—A hospital for 50 beds.

The total number of beds provided—including the 70 belonging to the cholera ward at Etchmiadzin—is 1,450.

*Remark.*—Funds furnished by the Urban Union are at present being employed for adapting a building—ceded to the Military by the Catholicos—to the needs of the refugees.

## II.

### KITCHEN STATIONS.

#### 1. On the railway lines used by refugees.

At the quarantine station near Etchmiadzin and at the stations of Aghtalia and Annenfeld.

#### 2. On the metalled roads (chaussees) used by refugees.

At Parakar, Erivan, Novo-Nikolaievka, Ailar, Suhoi Fontan, Nijni-Ahti, Elenovka, Tchibuhli, Delijan, Tarsa-Chai, Caravan-Sarai and Uzuntal.

Bread and hot foods are served out to the refugees at these stations. The refugees are quartered during their stay at these points in sheds rented for the purpose, which are properly roofed.

A separate kitchen station has been opened at Julfa out of funds—Rbs. 10,000 (£1,000)—placed by the Urban Union at the disposal of Bishop Nerses, for the use of Nestorian refugees.

## III.

With a view to improve the insanitary conditions obtaining in the refugee settlements, and also the hygiene of the refugees.

#### 1. Three disinfecting stations have been opened.

The first of these is now operating at Etchmiadzin. The station undertakes to disinfect cemeteries, refuse dumping grounds, hospitals (in the event of infectious disease), premises of every other type, and to work the disinfecting camera.

The officials of the station perform their duties under the guidance of a sanitary medical officer.

The second station is at Igdir, and the third at Erivan.

The duties of the latter two stations are identical to those of the first named station, and each is worked by a similar personnel.

#### 2. Detachment for erecting buildings.

This detachment has to attend to the building of bath and wash (laundry) houses of a provisional type in the refugee settlements. It consists of a chief, two assistants, an instructor, two stove-building masons (*petchniks*), two fitters, a tinsmith, and two rough carpenters.

The detachment has erected a bath house (Turkish) and laundry at Annenfeld, a similar bath house at Tchibuhli, and a Turkish bath and a laundry at Kedabek.

New work of the same description is in immediate prospect for the detachment at Delijan, Elenovka, Nijni-Ahti, Igdir, Etchmiadzin and its neighbourhood, and at Alexandropol. The detachment has also been ordered to take in hand work connected with the erection of a series of steam-formalin disinfecting cameras. A camera of this type is in course of construction at Erivan.

3. Under-garments and warm clothing have been served out in various places to the refugees. Wearing apparel, as stated above, was acquired at a cost of Rbs. 66,000 (£6,600) out of moneys contributed by a number of organisations and individuals, and warm clothing costing Rbs. 11,996 (£1,200) assigned by the Principal Committee of the Urban Union have also been recently distributed to the refugees.



Apart from the above-described more or less completed organisation of relief work, necessity has compelled the Urban Union to take over relief work in Persian territory, and a hospital for 110 beds is under equipment at Salmas.

Further duties connected with the relief of the refugees will shortly be taken on by the Urban Union, when it is proposed to open small hospitals and dispensaries in all refugee settlements.

It is estimated that between 11,000 and 12,000 refugees have returned to the valley of Alashkert and to the Vilayet of Van, and that from 2,000 to 3,000 refugees belonging to the middle classes have settled in the Governments of Tiflis and Baku.

The cost of feeding the refugees by the Union is estimated at between 18 to 19 copecks (4d.) per day.

The following are the rations issued to the refugees:—

Bread, 108 lbs. . . . .	Rbs. 7.20	
Meat, 20 lbs. . . . .	3.00	
Rice, 10 lbs. . . . .	1.20	Rbs. 18.08 per
Potatoes, onions, salt, pepper . . . . .	0.60	100 refugees
Fuel (wood, peat or coal) . . . . .	1.70	per diem, or
Tea, 1/8th lb. . . . .	0.25	18.08 copecks
Sugar, 4½ lbs. . . . .	1.13	per head.
Rental for accommodation . . . . .	1.00	
Administrative expenses . . . . .	2.00	

The Government ration is 1½ lbs. per person per day, or an allowance in cash in lieu of rations at the rate of 15 copecks a day or Rbs. 4.50 per month. The Government method of sending provisions to points of distribution is, however, very erratic. Owing to the lack of railway facilities and to delays in remitting moneys by the Principal Committee, the refugees dependent on relief from this source have frequently to go without their food for days and at times for weeks.

The following is a list of other organisations engaged in relief work in this country:—

- The Etchmiadzin Brotherhood,
- The Tiflis Armenian Central Committee,
- The Moscow Armenian Red-Cross Committee,
- The Russian Red-Cross Society, and
- The Communes of the various villages in which the refugees have settled.

“The Etchmiadzin Brotherhood”—under the Chairmanship of the Catholicos—maintains branches of its organisation at Igdir, Erivan, Alexandropol, Kars, Nakhichevan, Novo-Bayazid and Karakeliss. Relief work was undertaken by the Brotherhood in March, 1915. Since that date, apart from the large quantities of clothing, medicines and other comforts served out to the refugees, a medical detachment has been organised at Igdir and, in all, the Brotherhood has spent

Rbs. 900,000 (£90,000) in relief work. This, in the main, has been obtained by voluntary contribution from persons of Armenian nationality all over the world and at Petrograd, Moscow, Kharkov, &c. The Brotherhood serves out with punctual regularity flour rations, money allowances and clothing to the refugees. It has all along maintained kitchens at Igdir, Etchmiadzin and Alexandropol, hospitals in various places, and has organised a proper system of medical aid, opened refugee orphanages, schools and workshops for the children. In short, the organisation is thorough and one of the most important relief societies engaged in work in the Armenian refugee pale.

“The Tiflis Armenian Central Committee” has also been carrying out relief work for nearly ten months. This body maintains its own hospitals and kitchens, and hitherto has expended Rbs. 200,000 (£20,000) in connection with the relief of Armenian refugees settled in the Government of Erivan. The necessary funds are raised by voluntary contributions collected from members belonging to Armenian Societies in the Caucasus.

“The Moscow Armenian Committee of the Red Cross.” The relief work of this organisation is confined to the Government of Erivan. The Committee commenced operations in April last, when four medical and kitchen stations, viz., at Etchmiadzin and at the villages of Markar, Ashtarak and Arzap, were opened. A staff consisting of a medical officer, two assistants and several competent attendants and nurses, several sanitary officers and other employees are appointed to each of these stations. The organisation affords relief when and as urgent occasion requires. This Committee has spent Rbs. 300,000 (£30,000) all of which have been contributed by the Armenian colony at Moscow. An orphanage is maintained by the Committee at Ashtar together with a school and workshop. The organisation likewise keeps a flour store and stocks of other provisions at the latter mentioned place. Refugees are fed by the Society at Markar and at eight other villages situated in the valley of Alashkert. The above remarks apply only to the more important duties that devolve on the Committee, but it also attends to the needs of the refugees in many other ways. A hospital at Arzap is also maintained by the Committee.

In August, 1915, “The all Russia Red-Cross Society” entered the field for refugee work by opening a medical observation point at Igdir. The staff here consists of a superintendent, a medical officer, two assistants, and 19 sanitary officers. In September last alone this body served out 18,598 dinners, 16,775 portions of tea, and rendered medical aid to 4,652 refugees. In October, 1915, the Red-Cross Society daily fed from 850 to 900 refugees in the district of Igdir. The stations of this Society are well organised, the staffs strictly disciplined and their work is effected with neatness and punctuality.



The Society maintains a Dispensary and a victualling store at Igdir. The estimated cost of the dinners and tea served out to the refugees by the Society is between 17 and 18 copecks (3d.) a day.

"The Village Communes." The peasants of each of the villages in which refugees have been settled, have undertaken gratuitously to accommodate them in their houses. In these the refugees find warm shelter and not infrequently are also fed out of the miserable resources at the disposal of their hosts. Whilst seemingly unimportant, the relief extended to the refugees by the peasantry is of the greatest value. An accurate idea of this benevolence can only be formed when all the good deeds of the peasantry are taken into consideration. Undoubtedly this aid relieves the contributory public from responsibilities amounting to several hundreds of thousands of roubles. In other words the charitable disposition of the not over well-off peasant, effects an enormous saving of money, which under other conditions would have to be provided by the various organisations.

On the recommendation of Prince A. M. Argudinsky-Dolgorukov, who has recently been on a tour of inspection to the refugee districts, it has been decided to improve the work of relief by adopting the following measures:—

1. That the present accommodation at the hospital at Annenfeld be increased by an additional 30 beds. That the bath houses in course of construction at Barsun and Kedabek be forthwith completed and a bath house built at Chardahli.

2. That a medical officer, two assistant doctors and two nurses, and for the 30 additional beds another assistant medical officer and three nurses be immediately appointed to the hospital at Annenfeld. That all equipment required for the additional 30 beds at this hospital and the necessary under-garments and clothing for out-going patients be at once supplied.

3. That should a further evacuation of refugees from Erivan to the Government of Elizavetpol be ordered by the authorities, additional warm and covered-in buildings should be rented at Annenfeld and Evlah and be supplied with some comfort for the refugees, even if only of a very primitive nature.

4. That kitchens for the journeying refugees be opened at Annenfeld, Evlah, and Elizavetpol.

5. That small hospitals be opened at the village of Tchaikent in the district of Elizavetpol, and one each in the districts of Djevanishir and Shusha.

6. That movable sanitary detachments and kitchens be organised in the districts of settlement of the refugees.

7. That permanent dispensing stations be established in the colony of Annenfeld and at the railway station at Evlah.

8. That the question of the restrictions which exist at Elizavetpol and on the road leading through Annenfeld regarding the passage of refugees, be at once brought before the notice of the competent authorities.

9. That the cash allowance to refugees in the Government of Elizavetpol be brought up to 15 copecks per day per head.

10. That the authorities, whom it may concern, be requested, when settling refugees on new lands, to take into consideration the previous conditions of life of such refugees and allot to those coming from highland districts identical localities in this country and *vice versa* in regard to refugees who have been inhabiting lowland districts. Further, that in defining the number of refugees to be temporarily domiciled in villages, the degree of prosperity, or poverty of the villages be taken into consideration.

11. That warm clothing, blankets, bast-shoe leather, iron stoves, kerosene, and if possible tea, sugar and soap, if only in small quantities, be immediately served out to the refugees.

12. That the question of the supply of fuel to the refugees be brought to the notice of the forestry authorities of the Caucasus.

13. That the question of the supply of flour to the refugees through the Central organ, and the accumulation of stocks of the same commodity in villages, or groups of villages, for the winter be forthwith decided.

14. That local administrative offices be requested to give the Committee timely notice of the dates and hours of despatch of trains conveying refugees.

15. That the Caucasian Principal Committee be requested to entrust the Urban Union with the task of feeding refugees on the spot. Should this prove impossible, to ask that steps be taken to introduce modifications in the present system of distributing food.

16. That a representative of the Committee be appointed to each of the localities where refugees have been settled, in order that these representatives may communicate to the Committee when urgent relief is necessary in any given locality.

## Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund.

As time goes on fuller details regarding the plight of our refugees in the Caucasus, and the arrangements for their succour, reach us from various sources, and the burden of them all is that conditions are desperate, mortality is high, doctors, nurses and drugs, besides comforts of various descriptions, are urgently needed, and that proper method and organisation are gradually being evolved out of the chaos which reigned through the sudden and vast influx of humanity in the early period of the exodus.



In connection with all Funds started for relief, of whatever nature, there are always irresponsible chatterers who, perhaps for the reason that they have no finger in the pie, try to throw doubt on the administration of them—without a shadow of certain knowledge, they feel sure that a large percentage goes in office and organisation expenses before a penny reaches the other end; they have a suspicion that when money reaches the other end, there is a further leakage of another inordinate percentage in more administration charges, perhaps worse: and the final outcome is that those intended to be relieved get merely a fraction of what they should. And then again doubt is cast on the nationality to which is entrusted the dispensing of the charity. A Russian or an Armenian is not so well known here, therefore we must be careful that we send money in such a way as not to fall into their hands—the chatterers would prefer sending to their own brotherhood, as if the love of humanity and the alleviation of suffering were restricted to certain castes.

Owing to the feeling recently aroused in this connection, we think it our duty to clear the minds of our readers regarding the Armenian Funds in London. Not one of the three Funds, one of which is our own, spends a farthing of the sums sent specially for refugees, towards administration charges, which are separately dealt with. In our own case, we repeat what we have said before, that the Association pays all charges, while the staff dealing with the matter is voluntary. As to the other end—and our remarks apply again to all three Funds—the recipients of the large sums sent out have been carefully selected. We would rather not give our own opinion of these recipients, as we should at once be accused by the chatterers as being prejudiced. We prefer to draw the attention of our readers to the reports of the British Consul at Batoum, which appear in this issue, detailing the manner in which the several Committees in the Caucasus are administering the self-imposed and gigantic task of bringing succour to the stricken of our nation. As we ourselves have sent all our collections, amounting already to £16,000, to the Committee under the control of His Holiness the Catholicos, we will content ourselves by quoting here the British official's remarks on that particular Committee:—

“The Etchmiadzin Brotherhood—under the Chairmanship of the Catholicos—maintains branches of its organisation at Igdir, Erivan, Alexandropol, Kars, Nakhichevan, Novo-Bayazid and Karakeliss. . . . The Brotherhood serves out with punctual regularity flour rations, money allowances and clothing to the refugees. It has all along maintained kitchens at Igdir, Etchmiadzin and Alexandropol, hospitals in various places, and has organised a proper system of medical aid, opened refugee orphanages, schools and workshops for the children. In short, the organisation is thorough and one of the most important relief societies engaged in work in the Armenian refugee pale.”

From our knowledge of the other two London Funds, we have no hesitation in saying that their remittances have also been made with the utmost care and circumspection. As to the Russian co-operation in this humanitarian task, our intense gratitude is due to that nation for their very present help in our national trouble. These remarks are made under a sense of duty, and we feel sure that if any aspersions are levelled in the future against the management of the Armenian Funds, either here or in the Caucasus, they will first be substantiated by specific charges of leakage or maladministration.

We shall now give our statement of account for the past month:—

	£	s.	d.
<i>Receipts:—</i>			
European and Chinese Colonists of Java ..	2,000	0	0
An offering from an Armenian Lady and her daughters .. .. .	25	0	0
Collected by Mr. H. Odian, Bombay .. .. .	20	10	0
Collected by Mrs. Diana A. Apcar, Yokohama ..	13	6	5
Collected by Mr. G. C. Thaddeus, Darjeeling ..	5	12	0
Mr. Leon Zorayan (3rd donation) .. .. .	2	2	0
Mr. Atogdos Guevrek .. .. .	2	0	0
Mr. Bernhard Krauterkraft .. .. .	1	10	0
“W. M.” .. .. .	0	10	0
	2,070	10	5
Amount previously received .. .. .	13,968	8	4
Grand total	£16,038	18	9

	£	s.	d.
<i>Expenditure:—</i>			
Remitted to the Catholicos to January 31st ..	13,610	0	0
Remitted by Hon. Treasurer in February ..	2,000	0	0
Previously remitted direct for special case ..	20	0	0
Balance in Bank .. .. .	408	18	9
Grand total	£16,038	18	9

The total amount remitted to his Holiness the Catholicos through our Association thus amounts to £15,610.

The telegram from Java to Mr. A. P. Hacobian, our Hon. Treasurer, runs thus:—

“Receive Chartered Bank two thousand pounds collected from Europeans and Chinese, which please remit Catholicos in aid of Armenian refugees. Zorab Mesrope & Co., Edgar & Co.”



The details of the collection made in Bombay by Mr. Herant Odian are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
M. Greenhill ..	6	13	4	R. Daniel ..	0	13	4
H. Odian ..	3	6	8	L. M. Sanosian ..	0	6	8
The Original Parisian Jewellers Co. ..	3	0	8	S. Daniel ..	0	6	8
S. Guevrek ..	2	0	0	H. Simeonian ..	0	6	8
S. K. Malcolm ..	1	0	0	G. Essaian ..	0	6	8
Y. Lemongian ..	1	0	0	M. Minas ..	0	2	8
N. Hurmuzian ..	0	13	4				
H. Michael ..	0	13	4	Total ..	£20	10	0

The details of the collection made in Darjeeling by Mr. G. C. Thaddeus, containing contributions from such distant places as Tibet and Sikkim, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
<i>Katihar—</i>				J. J. Dyaz..	0	4	0
A. F. Harvey ..	0	13	4	T. G. Cleeve ..	0	2	8
<i>Gyantse, Tibet—</i>				M. Thurley ..	0	2	8
A. Collins ..	0	2	8	E. A. Wearn ..	0	2	8
J. Johnson..	0	2	8	W. Bennett ..	0	2	8
H. B. Marcoolyn ..	0	2	8	H. Hales ..	0	2	8
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<i>Darjeeling—</i>				L. J. Vado..	0	2	8
I. C. Thomas ..	0	13	4	K. M. Nagersheth..	0	2	8
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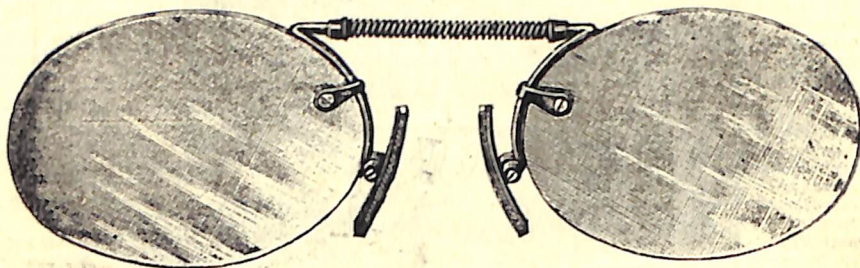
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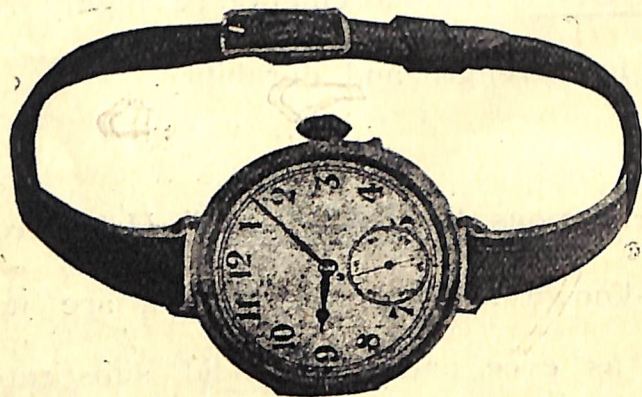
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## The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund.

The Report for the year 1914-15 is in the press and will, we trust, be available for distribution before very long.

Mrs. A. W. Chambers has been appointed Asst. Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Fund.

The total amount received up to date is £5,556 7s. Mr. A. V. Apcar has sent the sum of £101 6s. 2d., which he has most kindly collected among his friends in Hongkong. To all the donors our sincere thanks are due. The following is a list of the contributors:—

Hon. Sir Paul Chater, Kt.,	Sympathiser .. ..	\$50.00
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Other amounts received during the month are from Major Murray, £10; E. and G. D., £5 10s.; Grammar School, Hinckley, per the Headmaster, £5 5s.; Mrs. Aymer, Miss Hockin, each £5; Mrs. M. A. E. Davis, Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Rait, each £3; R. Slator (collected), £2 10s.; Dr. John Aitken, £2 2s.; W. Edgar Enman, £2 0s. 9d.; Miss M. A. Woods, Miss M. Kingsland, Mrs. White, Miss Hervey, Anon., each £2; Misses H. S. and M. E. Neill, £1 15s.; R. R. Waring, Esq., and sister,



£1 10s. ; per Editor of Glasgow "Evening Times," £1 7s. 6d. ; per P. Tonapeteau, £1 5s. ; Sympathiser, £1 1s. ; S. M. Bowen, Mrs. Ellice, Mrs. Hoare, Mrs. T. R. Marshall, Sympathy, Lady Thomas, Miss M. A. Briggs (collected), Mrs. Jarrom, each £1 ; Miss M. Hagopian (collected, 12s. ; H. Smith, Mrs. E. E. Green, Miss Mary Kay, G. Serine, W. E. M., Arthur Marsden, Mrs. Briggs and Mrs. H. N. Briggs, Miss M. E. Stirling, Mrs. Hurst, Mrs. Lucy Mason, Mrs. Robertson, Miss Gertrude S. Rolls, Mrs. Simey, Miss K. M. Reynolds, Miss Constance M. Todd, each 10 shillings ; and very many smaller sums. Among these "A mine-sweeper's 5 children" send 6s. Some little school children at Cowes elected to go without their usual prizes that they might send the cost of these, 5 shillings, to help feed little refugees. A large proportion of the contributions are accompanied by touching letters of sympathy with Armenia's deep sorrows and wishes that the writers could do something more.

The following collections for the Fund have been sent by clergy and others :—Adderbury Church, per Rev. C. F. Cholmondeley, £2 15s. 7d. ; New Mills Wesleyan Church, £2 4s. ; part Christmas Offertory, per Rev. Canon R. McQuade, £2 ; Westcote Church Offertory, per Rector and Churchwardens, £9 14s. 2d. ; Billingham Church, Offertory, £1 12s. 6d. ; Walcott Church Offertory, 13s. 6d. ; Brook Mission Church, per Rev. Cyril E. Hubbard, £1 12s. 6d. ; Ferring Church, per Canon Deane, £1 14s. ; S. Barnabas', Bolton, per Rev. J. F. Heyes, 17s. 3d. ; Hanney Church, per Rev. J. H. Noon, 19s. 9d. ; Great Coxwell Church, per Rev. Walter Boldero, £1 12s. ; Friends at Bay du Vin, N.B., per Rev. L. A. Foyster, £2 17s. 6d. ; Girls' Club, Wokingham, 4 shillings.

On Feb. 7th the Hon. Treasurer cabled the sum of 8,000 roubles (£500) to Mons. Khadissof, Mayor of Tiflis, half the amount to be handed to the Armenian Ladies' Committee there for their orphanages, the other half to be spent for relief of refugees. At the beginning of this year 234,400 persons in the Caucasus and the parts of Persia and Turkey occupied by Russia were in receipt of relief ; of these 65,400 are men, 81,000 women, and 88,000 children. It is impossible to exaggerate the misery and suffering among them. Mr. Safrastian, to whom we cabled £200 for relief of refugees who had been in comfortable circumstances, and whose sufferings were, therefore, the greater, thus writes from Tiflis on January 21st :—

"With the sum you cabled I was able to relieve some cases of very acute distress. The sums I distributed ranged from 50 to 5 roubles and even less, but the average amount given to each recipient was 20—25 roubles. The recipients thanked me heartily, because with these sums they could purchase something of permanent value, such as warm clothing, bedding, etc. The following are some of the cases relieved :

"I. Hovhannes Puzantian (of Van) received 25 roubles. He has a family of three, was a teacher in comfortable circumstances. His home is burnt and all his property lost. He fled from Van in August and is reduced to starvation, is dependent on 4d. per day.

"II. Khatchadur Solakhian (of Van), family of four, received 30 roubles. His clever and only son was strangled in prison by the Turks before they fled from Van. He leaves a widow and three sisters, who have lost their all. The refugee camp in which they live is dirtier than the stable they kept their cows in at home.

"III. Madame Satenig Ayazian, widow of a prosperous merchant of Van. He died during the retreat leaving her with two children, all in direst distress. She received 20 roubles.

"IV. Verkine, of Atanontz (near Van), a well-to-do farmer's wife, lost her husband and four children. Has still two children. She had been ill for two months and was craving for soup and meat which is very scarce here. Received 20 roubles.

"V. Mdle. Lusentak Aghvanean (of Van) received 30 roubles. She has bravely taken charge of her dead sister's four children. They were a rich family. The parents died during the flight, leaving four children of tender age to the care of this brave girl. . . .

"If you have more sums to dispense I can see it distributed to such stricken families as these through a committee of compatriots."

We thank gratefully all who have helped our Fund, and beg for a continuance of support in the name of those who so sorely need it.

We hope to send out a consignment of drugs as soon as possible.

Sincere thanks are due to the following friends who have kindly sent parcels and bales of warm garments :—Mrs. Adamoff, "B. M.," Girls of St. Lucy's Home, Gloucester, per Sister Jessica, Mrs. Watts, Mrs. Ernest Jones, Mrs. Taylor, Miss Emily Cooper and Club for Working Girls, Miss H. J. Reeve, Mrs. Bazett, F. Froud and friends, Miss Smith, Mrs. Hoare. New warm garments of all kinds will be thankfully received, and should be sent to the Hon. Sec. by the first week in April.

All correspondence relating to the Fund should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss E. J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. Cheques should be made payable to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, and crossed London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch.

EMILY J. ROBINSON.



## Announcements.

### ARMENIAN YOUNG MEN'S CLUB, MANCHESTER.

The meetings of this Society during the Winter Session 1915-1916 continue at West Didsbury Public Hall, Manchester, and the fixtures for March and April are thus notified in the Syllabus :—

MAR. 11—Saturday, 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.  
Musical Entertainment in Aid of the Armenian Relief Fund.

MAR. 19—Sunday, 3.30 p.m. Addresses by  
V. K. Funduklian, Esq., and  
H. Ketchedjian, Esq.

MAR. 26—Sunday, 3.0 p.m. Members' Meeting.

APRIL 9—Sunday, 3.30 p.m. Debate.  
M. Yegwartian, Esq., Vs.  
B. Jenazian, Esq.

APRIL 23—Sunday, 3.30 p.m. Debate.  
A. E. Manissadjian, Esq., Vs.  
M. Markarian, Esq.

APRIL 30—Sunday, 3.0 p.m. Members' Meeting.

End of Winter Session to be followed by a Picnic in the Summer, if circumstances permit.

## Literary Section.

### Egypt—A Memory.

It was in Alexandria, in 1901. The cold season was approaching its close and the exodus of tourists was nearly over. I had delayed my departure, owing to the Armenian Easter which was at hand. It was on the Tuesday of the Holy Week. I was returning from a visit to a considerable colony of Armenian Refugees, temporarily accommodated in the neighbourhood of the Armenian Church, under the ægis, principally, of the Armenian Benevolent Institution of Egypt. I was accompanied by a friend who, through many years' residence

in Egypt, was familiar with most things of local interest and understood Arabic. In the principal Square, we noticed a very old Arab fakir, with snow-white flowing beard and in the picturesque though worn-out national garb of his country. He was resting on a small portable seat, in the sheltered angle of a wall, outside a café, smoking his chibouk and recounting his cherished recollections of days gone by to a small group of interested listeners. With interjections of Allah-uh-Akbar, this Methuselah of the nineteenth century was saying that he was now over one hundred years of age, as he had been told that he was a baby when Napoleon Bonaparte invaded Egypt. He had been an eye-witness to the fortunes of the great Mohammed Ali who, though chiefly known to the outside world by his destruction of the Mamluks, was, nevertheless, the regenerator of Egypt and an ardent reformer. His successor, Abbas Pasha, was different. He was so rich that he was in the habit of adorning his domestic pets with jewelled necklaces. Nubar Pasha? Oh yes, he remembered him well, may he rest in peace. He had a large and noble heart, which beat with equal force for rich and poor. He was devoted to the welfare and advancement of Egypt, and believed in the potency of British friendship towards Egypt and her people. He was of the same nationality as those poor men, who were sitting in a circle, a little further away in the middle of the Square and who, to his knowledge, had been occupying the same place for the last four years, trying to earn their hard daily bread with brush and polish and a faded piece of velvet. Who were these men, and what inexorable fate had reduced them to such a precarious and humiliating an occupation? There were about fifteen of them, mostly below the middle age, squatting listlessly on the ground a little apart one from the other, some busy with their humble toil, others with arms folded round their uplifted knees and foreheads resting on them. With thoughtful mind I approached one of them and discreetly placed my foot in position on the foot-rest in front of him. He roused himself from his reverie and set to work without even looking at me. He was a powerful-looking man with broad shoulders and long arms, and probably, some thirty-five years of age. "Give them a good lustre," I said in Armenian. He had heard his own language. He raised his head, looked at me, then nodded in assent and dropped his head again. "How long have you been in Egypt?" I asked. His brush stopped, his hand shook, and his whole frame seemed to tremble like a suppressed volcano. Tardily raising his sad face with those large black eyes to me, he gave the laconic reply, "After the events of Sasoon." In what manner, and in the name of righteousness why had this strong man of the mountains suffered? Had he lost a dear wife, a fond mother or a favourite child in those awful "events"? Or, had he even been through the tortures of an entire domestic holocaust? And, how I reproached myself for stirring distressing memories in one who was already stricken with intense suffering.



"After the events of Sasoon." What an epitome in expression, yet how painfully unabridged and terrible in the fulness of their devastating consequences! They staggered humanity, and the civilised political world passively heard the news, even though it shuddered. Yet these "events" were but a mere adumbration of the culminating deliberate propaganda of extermination, which has been proceeding so ruthlessly during the past ten blackest months in the history of the Armenian nation. And the human side of the whole civilised world still shudders, and the political side keeps on marking time! Was it that the bearing of the Cross was destined solely for the sons of Ararat, Taron and Vaspoorakan, without the least heritage of Peace and Goodwill on Earth? But, perhaps, *verbum sat sapienti*.

It was Good Friday, during the evening service, when the ceremony of the Entombment of our Saviour is celebrated. The Armenian Church was crowded inside, and so was the courtyard outside, and in the crowds was conspicuous the Colony of Armenian Refugees. The service itself followed the familiar primordial ritual as seen in every Armenian Church. But there were certain observances in the ceremonial which were vividly emblematic and, consequently, particularly impressive. In the Chancel, immediately in front of the Altar, was a veritable mound of beautiful, fresh pink roses, from end to end of the Chancel, symbolising Mount Calvary. From the centre of this mass of roses was elevated a huge Cross about seven feet high, between the transverse sections of which was suspended a miniature Crucifix with the figure of Christ in precious metal. Not far from the mass of roses, and in the Chancel, was a silver Reliquary of respectable proportions, resting on a pedestal and fashioned after the domed Altar of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. That exquisite chant, "*Pargevatur amenetzun*," was rendered by the Choir. The whole congregation knelt. It was the moment of the Descent from the Cross. The highest ecclesiastic present, the Vardapet of the Diocese, reverently removed the small Crucifix from the elevated Cross, and placed it in the Reliquary, there to rest till Easter Sunday morning. The Benediction was given. There was a lull. And then the entire congregation, as if with one resolve, began to sway towards the Chancel. This was no mere outward religious custom; it was the impulse of deep-rooted belief and devotion. "Ervand, be quick." "Arshak, get two; one also for mother." They had attained their desire; the members of the congregation were now streaming out of the church, each carrying a rose, some two, from the foot of the Cross. I seem to recognise one face. I am not mistaken—that sorrowful face once seen cannot be forgotten. Yes, it is the same. Slowly and heavily he is passing out of the church, with bent head and tearful eyes, sadly gazing at a cluster of roses held in his hands. One rose is enough for himself, and the rest? They are for his dear ones, cruelly lost to him for ever in his beloved mountains of Sasoon.

ZAVAK.

## Armenia's Appeal to the Entente Powers.

To right our wrongs, our prayers to you ascend;  
With sobbing mournful notes, our cries we blend.  
Armenia's dying moans must surely thus awake  
A chord in your great hearts! Else we die! Too late,  
Shall it be said, ye strove your pledge to keep?  
Must it then be, pledges so solemn and so deep,  
By cruel force shall their fulfilment gain?  
In brotherhood with all, Christ's sacred name  
We bear! Come, come! Oh! Save from sack and flame  
Our homes, our wives and babes and thereby claim  
God's blessing on your mighty unsheathed sword!

Awake and hear Armenia's dying cry,—  
How our tortured souls for succour sigh!  
No longer should Armenia be a slave,  
Whilst mightier Powers rule by land and wave!  
All tyrants to a bitter end must come,  
For they must share the unseen evil's doom.  
God's justice reigns! Your stalwart arms would seem  
An answer to our prayer! You can redeem  
Your solemn pledge, who ancient relics prize,  
And guard securely and with jealous eyes—  
Why leave ye then the land our Saviour trod,  
Enslav'd and bleeding 'neath Mohamed's rod?  
Asia and Armenia raise a pleading hand,  
Imploring help! Oh! Save their stricken land!

Then mighty Powers! Our prayers shall call  
Mightier blessings on both great and small;  
Each breath of freedom bringing on its wings  
Psalms of gratitude—as each glad heart sings,  
All hail! Great Russia! England, staunch and true  
And gracious France! Our hopes are all in you!

GABRIEL J. APCAR.



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Note.—In the review of this pamphlet in the August number of "Ararat," it was stated that it was sold by Mr. P. Tonapetean at 53, Addison Gardens, W.

It is now also available at the office of the Armenian United Association of London, 47A, Redcliffe Square, S.W. The owner is giving 35 per cent. of the sale proceeds to the Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund.

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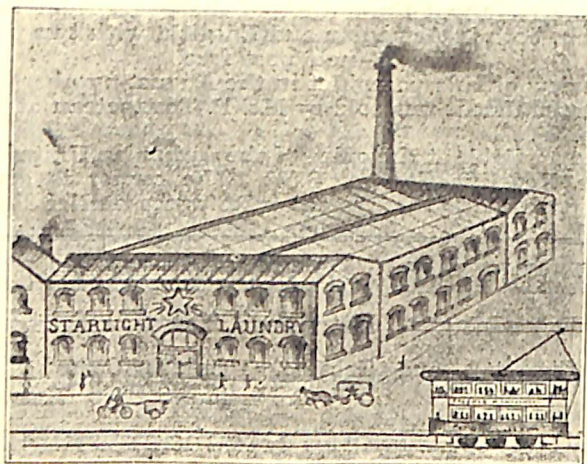
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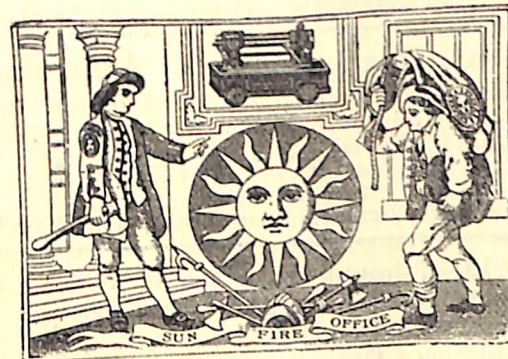
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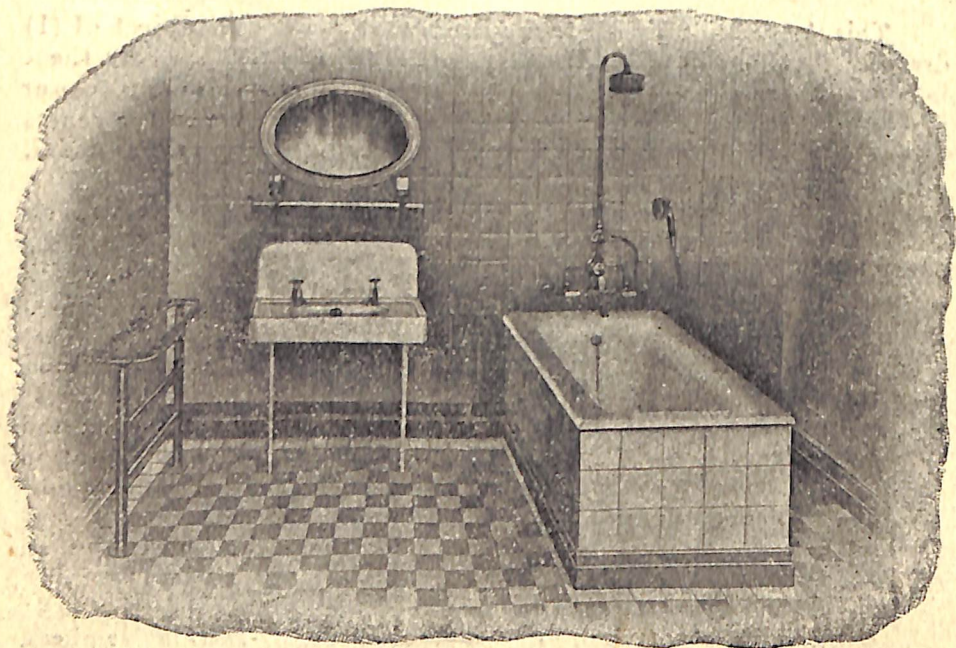
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